



The Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) are working together to initiate a new water efficiency program for the restaurant industry in [Arizona](#). The pilot program was launched in Flagstaff in September 2005.

The program consists of the purchase, [installation](#) and replacement of high water use, low-pressure pre-rinse spray nozzles for restaurants willing to participate in this water and energy conservation measure.

Standard nozzles use twice as much water as the newer higher-pressure nozzles. Typically, these nozzles remove loose food particles prior to dishes and trays being placed in industrial dishwashers. By replacing older nozzles, restaurants can achieve both water and energy savings. The Arizona Rinse Smart program is based on a similar program implemented by the California Urban Water Conservation Council (CUWCC) and major water and energy providers in that state. The [California Rinse & Save](#) Program proved an effective water and energy efficiency measure for the industry showing an average savings of 50,000 gallons annually per restaurant together with considerable energy savings. [See the CUWCC's Final Report Summary for additional information.](#)

Arizona has many high tourism areas existing outside larger metropolitan areas vulnerable to water supply shortages. This vulnerability can increase with the influx of [tourists](#) and Arizona residents traveling to escape summer heat or for recreation purposes in the winter. Savings seen in the California model, if achieved in Arizona, could help many of our high tourism communities to achieve considerable water savings.

Once the pilot is initiated, the ADWR anticipates contacting other community and [business](#) partners committed to implementing water [and energy](#) conservation to expand this program. For example, tourism communities of Sedona and Payson may be subsequent candidates, as their current water conservation programs would likely fit in well with [Arizona Rinse Smart](#). Other parts of the state will be targeted as funding allows and the need arises. The Arizona Rinse Smart Program will continue throughout 2006 to include other municipalities and the estimated 12,000 restaurants within Arizona.